

(b) if so, what are the restrictions on Indian nationals especially Indian officials on contacts with representatives of such banned organizations;

(c) whether the chief of that organization Shri Prachanda recently visited the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and had a dialogue with the Indian Ambassador to Nepal; and

(d) if so, will the Government of India allow the same facilities and courtesies to be extended to representatives of other banned organizations in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian ambassador to Nepal met CPN (Maoist) Chairman, Prachanda in the Indian Embassy on 31.10.2006.

(d) Does not arise as CPN (Maoist) is not a banned organization in India.

Infiltrations through Western Borders

†1546. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of infiltration through the western borders of the country have increased, with the introduction of Thar Express between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen intelligence network at Rajasthan border, and provide modern arms, keeping in view the security of the nation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There are no such reports.

†Original notice of the question was received In Hindi.

(c) and (d) Intelligence agencies have been alerted along Rajasthara border. Modern arms and equipments have also been provided to the border guarding forces for effective vigil on the borders.

Pending Mercy Petitions

1547. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mercy petitions filed under Article 72 of the Constitution on behalf of the convicts awarded death penalty since 1980-81, indicating the number of petitions pending at the beginning of the year and additions during the year;

(b) the average time taken in processing and disposing of a petition; and

(c) the details of the instances where the longest and the shortest time was taken in disposing of mercy petitions, indicating the dates of filing and disposal of applications, identities of the convicts and applicants in respective cases, and the names of the President and Home Minister at the relevant periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) A statement containing the details of the number of mercy petitions filed under Article 72 of the Constitution on behalf of the convicts awarded death penalty since 1980-81, indicating the number of petitions pending at the beginning of the year and additions during the year is enclosed (*see below*).

(b) The average time taken in processing and disposing of a mercy petition has been about 4 to 5 years.

(c) There are 23 cases involving 44 condemned prisoners pending for disposal. A few of them are pending since January, 1998. The names of Hon'ble Presidents and Home Ministers and their tenure are in public knowledge.